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FDD Abstract of

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MISCELLANEOUS ECONOMIC INFORMATION ON THE GDR (3 pp; German; dated [redacted]; acquired at [redacted]; date of info: [redacted]; [redacted] document distributed on 16 July 1952)

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This document consists of a carbon copy of a 3-page typewritten report, dated 6 June 1952, containing miscellaneous economic information on the GDR, as follows:

1) Affiliated with the GDR Patent Office is a Department of Materials Improvement, which has the task of determining the practicability of improvement suggestions submitted by GDR plants. On the basis of proposals received by this Department, bottlenecks in the GDR industry, which are to be overcome by the use of substitute materials, include the following: U-shaped steel sections, cork for motor-vehicle clutch disks, ball bearings for motor vehicles, phosphoric acid, copper asbestos, and white leather, etc.

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2) At the end of November 1951, a committee was formed in Dresden with the task of examining old accounts (prior to 1945) in order to determine how the funds involved were acquired and to adjust the interest payments. The SED (Socialist Unity Party) maintained that all holders of accounts valued at several thousand marks are capitalists and war profiteers, and, therefore, should receive neither interest nor revaluation payments; the SED further demanded that a very strict rule be applied in connection with the examination of these accounts.

3) A very large number of livestock arrived at the Dresden stockyards during June 1951, and special facilities had to be provided to handle the surplus. Although most of the animals are from various parts of the GDR, there were some deliveries of sheep from the Eastern Bloc countries. The Land Sachsen meat-processing plants were instructed to increase their output of tinned meat products.

4) The Nordplatz-Landesprojektierung (map survey), in Dresden, operating in three shifts, is engaged in the production of ~~XXXXXX~~ 1:25,000 survey maps and 1:100,000 general-staff maps of Germany. Important buildings, such as schools and administrative centers, are particularly emphasized on these maps, with information as to the number of persons who can be housed in each building. All persons connected with this work are obliged to secrecy.

5) Because of a fire in the Kuettner Spinning Mill, in Pirna-Heidenau, on 24 December 1951, which caused a great deal of damage, tire production in the GDR was greatly hindered.

6) An explosion and fire in the Boehlitz-Ehrenberg Carbide Plant, which was of great importance for the production of buna, resulted in a critical shortage of acetylene and welding gas. It was not expected that the plant could be reconstructed before June 1952.

7) The 1952 gasoline allocation for the VEB (People-Owned ~~Enterprise~~) industry was set at 50 percent of the 1951 allotment. A conversion of vehicles to wood-burning gas generators is hardly possible, because the supply of wood for gas tanks is also nearly exhausted.

[Foreign language document or microfilm of it (No. [redacted] is available from CIA library, ext. [redacted])

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4 August 1952

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